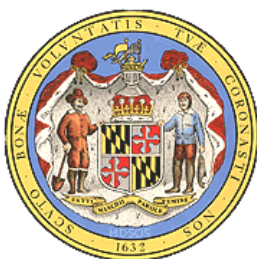

Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board



Location:

**Baltimore City Delegation Room, Room 145
House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401**

Date:

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Time:

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Agenda details:

I. 3:00 - 3:05 Call to Order

Regarding the Restitution Report we circulated after our last meeting, some comments that have been received and taken into consideration. However we anticipate more good feedback and would like to recirculate soon for further comments and discussion at our next meeting.

The information from the previous meeting will be sent out and the stream of the meeting is online. We will be audio recording this meeting. Minutes can be found on the general assembly website and the GOCCP website. We also encourage you to take a look at the annual report on the GOCCP website.

II. 3:05 - 3:25 Agency Updates
A. Maryland Department of Health

Announcement of personnel changes including the hiring of Dr. Aliya Jones, the new Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health overseeing BHA as well as new ASO, Optum. Optum replaced Beacon and includes upgrades for data collection and analysis.

Continued success meeting 8-507 placement. Average time below 10 days. MDH is expanding its provider network, adding additional beds at Tuerk House. Mental Health placements also expedited and now take 5 days.

B. Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services:

82 employers from across the state come to learn about our programs for reentry. We are also partnering with the Enoch Pratt Library entrepreneur academy to help individuals who do not meet all requirements but have the possibility of being self-employed. These are individual who are medium-level offenders who may have sex offenses or other things that may prevent them from meeting employment requirements. The academy teaches them how to be self-employed. We are continuing to build reentry efforts for all of our populations from pretrial to prerelease.

Discussion of Judge Pastore from Baltimore City District Court and her reentry program. Judge

Morrissey notes that it's a very popular program, so much so that individuals who aren't involved in the criminal justice system are asking to be involved in the program.

C. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

Department has a bill circulating relating to inmate education. DLLR continuing tablet expansion, expanding from 12 to 80 with a goal of 1,400 within corrections, partnering with DPSCS. Pursuing another round of opioid grants. Highlighted hospitality program for women. Lots of positive feedback from federal partners. That particular grant will be Title 1 for local areas.

D. Administrative Office of the Courts

The data has been pretty consistent quarter to quarter. We are hitting in the mid to higher 80% range for compliance with mandatory caps for Justice Reinvestment in the 15, 30 and 45 days categories.

E. Local Detention Centers

F. Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

III. 3:25 - 3:35 JRA Performance Measures

Performance measures this month are fairly short. Due to the timing of the meeting, we do not have full quarterly data. Most of these measures are consistent with the last meeting. State prison population continues to decline along with the populations of local detention centers. The proportion of pretrial populations of inmates held in local detention centers has increased. Administrative release data remains pretty consistent. Hoping to work with the Parole Commission in order to have much more data available at the next meeting.

IV. 3:30 - 4:00 Reinvestment/Performance Incentive Grant Fund Update

The Oversight Board is to make recommendations to the GOCCP about where to disperse some of the savings from the reduction in the prison population. Funding is divided in half. Half goes to state programs and half goes to local programs. At our previous meeting we made a workgroup to determine recommendations and review grant applications.

GOCCP: The JRA Oversight Board makes recommendations to the GOCCP regarding funding. This was our first round and generally things went smoothly, but we certainly did learn a lot and we could not be more grateful to the review committee members of the Oversight Board. We realize reviewing this volume of grant applications can be a lot of work.

State awards were reviewed internally by 3 GOCCP staff. We only received 3 applications and the recommendation was made to fully fund all 3 including: Maryland Public Defender Co-Occurring Diversion Project, Department of Labor Tablet Program, and DPSCS Reentry Specialists.

Discussion:

Mr. DeWolfe (on Maryland Public Defender Co-Occurring Diversion Project): These types of state grants have been very successful and we are looking to implement more, especially in the western part of the state. These projects allow for proper mental health screening for all of the inmates that come in for pretrial detention. There are referral and peer counseling services offered as well.

Sec. Rzepkowski (on Department of Labor Tablet Program): This will allow us to increase tablets to 1,400 for our correctional education program. The academic skill gains of individuals using these tablets is through the roof along with their interest, attendance and their rates of passing the GED.

Asst. Sec. Scruggs (on DPSCS Reentry Specialists): This will allow our inmates to have a valid home reentry program. This will allow those released to be monitored for a year by reentry specialists.

Rep. Dumais: One of the problems recently has been the women's pre release center. Not seeing something for women on this list makes me wonder how they are being addressed.

Asst. Sec. Scruggs: This is something we are addressing through this grant. We are looking at pre release, work release and medium classification population of women who are at our MCIW. Women are a part of our reentry program. We are aiming to help women with their own businesses and involve them also in the entrepreneurship academy. The pre release facility is still being explored by Sec. Green and we will have future information on that.

Rep. Dumais: One of the issues that the state is going to have to deal with is that the federal government is cutting VOCA funds. This may be a way to address this.

Mr. Fueston: Yes the federal government did reduce VOCA funding for FY 2019 by 33%. Our participants will not feel that impact this year. At the end of this year we will have to figure out funding to make sure services are being met. We will coordinate with our victim service providers to figure out the best path forward.

Sen. Hough: Many of the time bills do not actually work the way they are supposed to but this bill seems to be working. We are reducing the population by about 662 people which is about \$3.3 million in savings. Great to see something that we designed working.

GOCCP: The review committee reviewed local awards. Top scoring one application from each jurisdiction was chosen for funding. There were 8 awards and 23 applications. We cannot fund everything but we will encourage more applications in the future. We will make sure they have tools needed in the future. Thank you everyone for your comments and this is just year one we will keep getting better.

*Local Awards: YMCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Abuse Intervention Program, Balt. City Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation Returning Citizens Program, Balt. County Community Solutions Multi-systemic Therapy- Emerging Adults, Frederick County Justice and Recover Associates Choose Life Health and wellness Program for Recovery and Reentry, Howard County Sustainable Reentry Demonstration Project, PG County Vehicles for Change Reentry Training Auto Mechanics, Wicomico

V. 4:00 - 4:25 Victim Restitution

GOCCP: There is a certain proportion of the grant that is supposed to be reinvested in victim services and victim rights. We did not receive applications from victim services providers. Therefore we would like to use the leftover victim funding, roughly \$100,000, to fund a victim restitution coordinator position within our office, only for one year. Restitution was a big part of law and we currently do not have a lot of staff capacity dedicated to it. This would be a one-time allocation and we have administrative funds that could cover that cost moving forward.

We anticipate \$400,000 left over funding from the state bucket. Having only received three applications for funding, we propose rolling that over into next years grants funding. The grant fund is non-lapsing so it should not be a budget issue. We are hoping to put our notice of funding out by July 1, so we will put that money back to use very soon. After improvements made this year we are hoping to be able to grant everything out next year.

Discussion:

Mr. Shellenberger: If we're going to lose all this VOCA funding are we able to use some of that money to make up for that? What do you envision the victim restitution position doing that already isn't being done by state employees?

Mr. Fueston: The \$400,000 left over would be the problem to give to VOCA funding since it comes from the state bucket. Victim services that we support through VOCA funding would be going to non-state agencies. In terms of a restitution coordinator I think a coordinator position would help to get that restitution funding out to recipients across the state.

Judge Long: Motion to approve recommendations.

*Board votes in favor *

A. Restitution Workgroup

GOCCP: Recently we had circulated a report on victim restitution efforts. Our hope is to recirculate that report and give people more of a chance to review and comment and then differ the full discussion and vote to April meeting. One of the recommendations regarded the restitution workgroup. Please let us know if you're interested in participating

Judge Long: I believe the original workgroup did not include members of the oversight board and we recommend that the next group have members of the board.

Judge Cox: Yes, there are some issues that indicate that we should have some members of the judiciary in the workgroup.

B. 4:25 - 4:30 Good of the Order & Adjournment

Rep. Dumais: Last week was historic when the assembly opened. We are excited for the new general assembly session.

Sen. Hough: It is important to keep this act and board going. Many of the new members of the legislature were not even around when we originally passed this bill.

Judge Long: We are tentatively looking at April 30th for our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.